

# **Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes**

**July 10, 2012 at 6:00pm**

Attendees: Rick Amodei, Dave Moreau, Kevin Smith, Noreen Ma, Holly Mansfield

Guests: Dan Moseley

Mosquito: Katie Hart

Meeting began at 6:25pm

## **Approval of Minutes:**

Kevin Smith made the motion to accept the minutes of April 23, 2012. Dave Moreau seconded the vote. All in favor.

## **Pump Replacement at Banta Davis:**

Last week Holly received two invoices from Wilmington Pump Supply for the repair of the pump at the Banta Davis playing field. After reviewing the budget, there is not enough money in the Recreation operating budget to cover the entire cost of this repair.

Rick and Holly met with Larry Barton to discuss our options in resolving this matter. Larry suggested that we spend our budget down to zero and take the remaining balance from the small caps line item in the Town Administrator's budget.

The board was unaware of any issues with the pump until the invoice was received. A project this large should not have been authorized without the knowledge and approval of the Recreation Commission.

Dan Moseley was aware of an issue with the pump and asked Harvey Ross to take a look at the pump. Dan was not aware of the enormity of the problem and believed the cost to repair the pump was minimal. The board is unsure as to where the authorization came from to repair the pump.

It appears that this issue was a "snowball effect". No one was aware of the multiple problems with the pump until the first repair was initiated and additional issues were discovered. However, at this point the work should have been halted and the board informed of the problem.

Rick plans to meet with Bob Duggan from Wilmington Pump Supply and Harvey Ross from Lawhorn Irrigation to discuss this matter in full detail and review the proper procedure when similar issues arise.

Rick believes we should follow Larry's recommendation to resolve the current invoice.

### **Field Maintenance:**

Over the past few months, we have received a few complaints concerning the condition of the fields, specifically the infields. Dan is in agreement that the infields need work due to the overwhelming issue of weeds in the infield.

Due to the organic field maintenance plan, Dan is unable to use chemicals to control the weeds and is finding that every five days the weeds have grown back. In the past, Dan had used Round-Up to control the weeds but this treatment is no longer allowed.

Dan has projected that the infields will need 34 visits to maintain the infields properly from April through October. The small field is \$50/visit, Softball Field is \$75/visit and the 90ft Diamond is \$85/visit. This totals to \$335 for all five fields and at 34 visits, we would need a budget of approximately \$11,000 to maintain the infields. In the current contract only \$5,000 is allotted for infield maintenance.

When Dan first started, he had the help of his children and was doing much of the work at no charge to the town. However, he no longer has the assistance of his children. The piece of equipment needed to properly maintain the infields is approximately \$12-\$15,000 and numerous parts need replacement due to the normal wear and tear of the machine. Years ago, the 90ft Diamond was a grass infield with clay at the bases only

Kevin states that the fields need to be a priority and the issue needs to be addressed. Various youth sport groups have donated \$10,000 for the improvement of fields. To do a re-vitalization of the infields would cost approximately \$2700-\$2800.

Rick made the motion to use up to \$2800 from the gift account for the revitalization of all five playing fields. Dave seconded the motion. All in favor.

Dan will complete the 90ft Diamond and the Softball Field by the end of the weekend and will plan to have the other fields complete by the end of next week.

### **Diment Park:**

The new safety audit is complete and the issues have been prioritized. Perhaps we could use the \$600 designated for maintenance and repair at Diment Park and Dan Moseley could address the issues. The board suggested that Dave provide a report and to make recommendations for what needs to be done and how the needs can be met. Rick will get the square footage of the area and will look into woodchips vs. rubber surfacing. We can review both the cost and the surface wear. Currently, parents are bringing in woodchips but they are not approved for playground use as they are a choking hazard. We need to put in approved material in the park.

The funds needed to properly maintain Diment Park is not in our current budget. Our budget would need to be increased before we can take on these projects. We need to go to the Parent's Connection and ask for some assistance with fundraising projects.

### **Review of Gift Account:**

The gift account has a balance of \$20,279.46. To date, we have committed \$500 to benches and \$300 for fence repair.

### **Field Clean Up-Dogs:**

Last year we stated that we would hire staff, on the interim, to walk the fields and clean up after the dogs to prevent the BOH from shutting down the fields. The board has decided that we are not going to continue to hire someone to clean up the fields.

Nancy DiRomualdo suggested that we educate the public on the health hazard of picking up after their pets and if not, dogs will be banned from the playing fields.

Sarah Hart suggested sending in a letter to the Editor of the Mosquito informing residents of the issue.

Holly will continue to check the dog bag dispensers on a monthly basis.

### **Girl Scout Project at Fields:**

Madeline Blake is the leader of Girl Scout Troop #75088. Maggie Blake explained that the troop would like to do a service project for the town for lost and found items on Spalding Field. The project will consist of a large wood board with hooks and baskets. The board will hang on the fence facing out towards the parking lot for easy access to various lost and found items.

Rick Amodei made the motion for the Girl Scouts to install a board with hooks and baskets for lost and found items at Spalding Field. Kevin Smith seconded the motion. All in favor.

### **Summer Fun Program:**

Due to the construction at the school this summer, the Summer Fun program had to find a new location. Currently, Holly has secured St. Irene's Church on Mondays through Thursdays for the entire length of the program. And Fridays, Holly has secured the Ski Barn at Great Brook Farm.

Rick suggested that the entire program be held at Great Brook Farm as it is a fun and different location for a summer program. Holly has offered other programs in the Ski Barn at Great Brook Farm in the past but the feedback has been somewhat negative. Parents do not like the idea that their children are using an outhouse for restroom facilities.

Despite this negative feedback, Rick thinks we should look into the matter further and perhaps send out an email blast to survey various thoughts on the matter.

Holly will inquire with Steve Carlin about the use of the space for the entire six week of the program and, if the space is available, will follow up with an email blast regarding opinions

from the community regarding the preferred location of the Summer Fun Program for the 2012 Season.

**Other:**

The next meeting will be scheduled for Tuesday, June 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm. Please provide any ideas for the agenda. Currently on the agenda we have the following:

- 1) Approval of Minutes from 4/23/12 Meeting
- 2) Five Year Plan
- 3) Banta Davis Update
- 4) Diment Park Maintenance Plan

The meeting adjourned at 7:45pm